

What is claimed is:

1. Discharge lamp electrode assembly, comprising:

an electrode upholding part by which an electrode is supported, the electrode having an opening in one end thereof,

wherein the opening has a first concave portion and a second concave portion, the first concave portion having a smaller diameter than second concave portion and being located inwardly thereof, the second concave portion adjoining the first concave portion and being located at the end with the opening,

wherein a substantially cylindrical metallic buffer part is provided in the second concave portion and has an inner peripheral surface which runs parallel to a longitudinal axis of the electrode,

wherein an end portion of the upholding part is cylindrical and adjoins a tapering part,

wherein the cylindrical end portion of the upholding part of the electrode is located within the first concave portion of the electrode, and

wherein the upholding part is fitted into the opening and supports the electrode such that the tapering part of the upholding part of the electrode is held in an interference fit in the buffer component.

2. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the buffer component has a smaller thickness in an area adjacent to the electrode end with the opening than in a remaining area, having been compressed by the tapering part.

3. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and the second concave portions each have an essentially cylindrical shape.

4. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the inside diameter of the first concave portion has a slightly larger diameter than an outside diameter of the cylindrical end portion of the upholding part of the electrode.

5. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the inside diameter of the second concave end portion and the thickness of the buffer component are dimensioned such that the inside diameter of the buffer component corresponds essentially to the inside diameter of the first concave portion.

6. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the buffer component has an essentially C-shaped cross section.

7. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the buffer component is made of tantalum.

8. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inside diameter of the first concave portion has a slightly larger diameter than an outside diameter of the cylindrical end portion of the upholding part of the electrode.

9. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the inside diameter of the second concave end portion and the thickness of the buffer component are dimensioned such that the inside diameter of the buffer component corresponds essentially to the inside diameter of the first concave portion.

10. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the buffer component has an essentially C-shaped cross section.

11. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the buffer component is made of tantalum.

12. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inside diameter of the second concave end portion and the thickness of the buffer component are dimensioned such that the inside diameter of the buffer component corresponds essentially to the inside diameter of the first concave portion.

13. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the buffer component has an essentially C-shaped cross section.

14. Discharge lamp electrode assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein the buffer component is made of tantalum.